Welfare measures for Indian Migrant Labourers

420. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still finding delay in making insurance cover for workers going abroad for employment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposed Indian overseas workers welfare fund has come into force;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the welfare measures taken by Government for Indian Migrant Labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. A compulsory Insurance scheme known as the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana has already been introduced w.e.f. 25.12.2003 which is applicable to the citizens of India who are required to obtain emigration clearance for employment abroad.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The proposal to constitute an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund was contained in the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which lapsed due to dissolution of the 13th Lok Sabha.

(f) The Emigration Act, 1983 regulates the emigration of Indian workers going abroad for employment with a view to protecting their welfare. Introduction of the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana is also a welfare measure for the emigrant workers.

Provision of employment

421. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of jobless in India grew by more than three times in 10 years from 13.8 million in 1991 to 44.5 million in 2001 as per the recently released census figures;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the unemployment rate among graduates is 17.2 per cent and is significantly higher than the overall unemployment rate of 10.1 per cent; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to provide employment to the unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The figures reported in part (a) and (b) relate to persons seeking/available for work (among the non workers) as per the census 1991 and 2001. The census does not have a precise definition of unemployment and hence non-workers seeking/ available for work as a category may not necessarily correspond to the definition of unemployment.

(c) Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the Tenth Plan period. The approach to Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan has laid emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors, which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints, which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention has been paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities, which have a large employment potential.

Employment opportunities

422. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5 crore employment opportunities have been proposed to be created during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the sectoral break-up of these employment opportunities; and

(c) the details of employment opportunities created under the plan so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sector-wise details of estimated job potential are given in the Statement (*See* below).